

Comprehension Workbook 1

Go!ha

(stories)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

CurriculumVisions

VisionMasters

Comprehension Workbook 1



Goha

(stories)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

understand • key words • summarise • sequencing • AF2-3 • AF4-5 • AF6-7 • discuss • create

Muslim faith

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with the study of world religions. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our Muslim Faith, Mosque, Muslim art and writing and Muslim holy days books.)

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Stories of Goha the Wise Fool

The character of Goha is common in funny stories from many parts of the Muslim world. The Goha stories may have begun as stories about a Turkish Shaikh, called Nasreddin Hodja, who lived in the 13th century. Over the centuries, the stories spread to many other countries. These are folk stories and they are not told for religious reasons. But many of the stories have a religious moral or message. In many of the stories, Goha's belief in God allows him to remain content with his life, no matter what happens to him. In other stories, Goha is a religious leader.

The Story of the Hazelnuts

One day Goha was sitting under a hazelnut tree, and he began to wonder why God placed such small nuts on such a big tree, while the large watermelon has only a small vine that is not even strong enough to carry the melon's weight. After all this thinking, Goha was tired and he fell asleep under the hazelnut tree. Suddenly, a hazelnut fell on Goha's head. Goha said, "Praise be to God. My lord, I now understand why, in your wisdom, you did not put the watermelon high up in a tree. If you had, that would have been the end of me."



The Kettle

One day Goha borrowed a kettle from one of his neighbours. A few days later, he returned it with a small saucepan inside it. His neighbour was surprised, and asked Goha, "How did this saucepan get in here?" "The kettle had a baby," Goha answered. The neighbour laughed at Goha's stupidity and kept both the kettle and the saucepan. A few weeks later, Goha asked to borrow the kettle again. The neighbour lent it to him. But this time, Goha did not return the kettle. Weeks went by, and finally the neighbour went to Goha's house to ask for his kettle back. "May God have mercy on its soul," said Goha. "Your kettle has died." "Died!" yelled his neighbour. "Since when do kettles die?" "Ever since they've been able to have children," answered Goha.

Faith

It was a period of terrible drought in Goha's village, and the crops were dying. Finally, the village decided to ask Goha to help, because Goha had a reputation for working miracles. The whole village went to Goha's house and asked for his help.

"Sorry", said Goha. "I cannot make the rain come by miracle because you have no faith."

"But Goha, how can you say that?" said the villagers. "After all, it is our faith that brought us to your door, begging for help."

"If you really had faith," said Goha, "You would have come with umbrellas."





Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word 'faith'.

b From that sentence, write what you think 'faith' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'faith'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'faith'.

e Draw a small picture to illustrate the idea of 'faith'.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: terrible	dreadful

3

Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

- 1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.**
- 2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.**
- 3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.**
- 4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?**

**There is
nothing wrong
with rewriting; even
the best authors
rewrite their
work.**



Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

After all this thinking, Goha was tired and he fell asleep under the hazelnut tree.

The whole village went to Goha's house and asked for his help.

Weeks went by, and finally the neighbour went to Goha's house to ask for his kettle back.

A few weeks later, Goha asked to borrow the kettle again.

One day Goha was sitting under a hazelnut tree.

It was a period of terrible drought in Goha's village, and the crops were dying.



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



Write a sentence to answer each of these questions:

- (a) The stories of Goha may be based on a Turkish sheikh. What was his name?
- (b) In the first story, what kind of tree was Goha sitting under?
- (c) In the first story, what falls on Goha's head?
- (d) In the second story, what does Goha place inside the kettle?
- (e) In the third story, why are the crops dying?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.

1 In the first story, what is the reason why God did not put watermelons in trees?

2 In the second story, why did the neighbour keep the saucepan?

3 In the second story, why does Goha tell his neighbour that kettles can have children?

4 In the third story, why does Goha refuse to help the villagers?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.

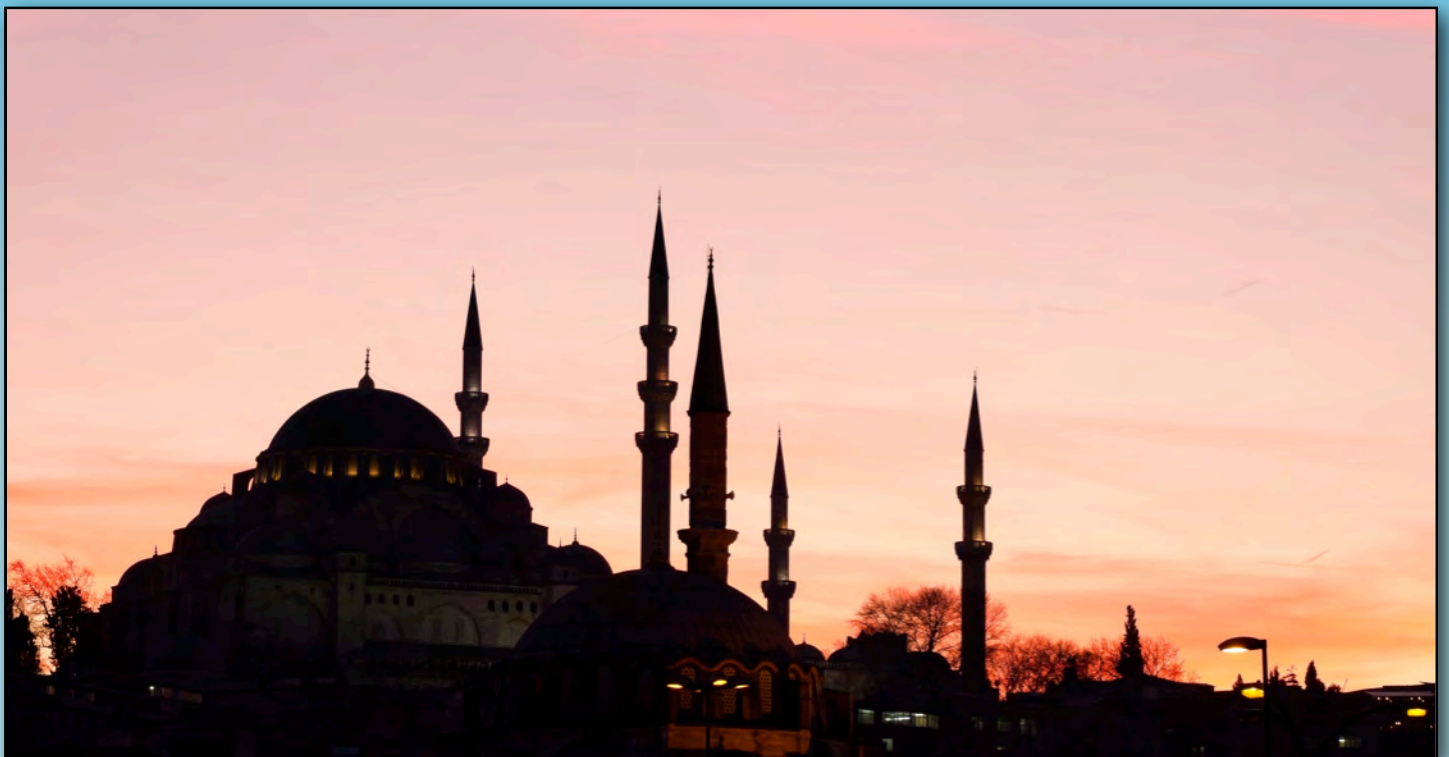
1 Why are the stories of Goha sometimes called religious stories?

2 In the second story, do you think Goha placed the saucepan inside the kettle so he would have a reason to keep his neighbour's kettle later on?

3 Was Goha right not to help the villagers in the third story?

4 What is the moral of the second story?

5 What is the moral of the third story?





Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.

Discussion topic: Wise fool

Discuss why the character of Goha is called the "wise fool".



Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



A Goha story

One day Goha went to the bank to cash a cheque. The bank clerk asked Goha, "Can you identify yourself?" So Goha took a mirror out of his pocket...

(Now complete the Goha story to make a funny ending.)

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